GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6013
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Generic Drugs in Rural Areas
Siddeshwara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote the use of generic drugs in rural areas of the country;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to spread awareness about the use of generic drugs in the country;

(c) the number of Government hospitals in rural India as compared to the number of Government hospitals which use and provide generic drugs to patients; and

(d) the steps proposed by the Government to increase access to generic drugs through Government hospitals and other health centres?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) In order to promote the use of generic drugs in the country including its rural areas and with the objective of making available quality generic drugs at affordable prices to all, a countrywide campaign in the name of 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP) has been started. This provides more than 600 medicines and 154 surgicals and consumables at affordable prices in all therapeutic categories such as Anti-infectives, Anti-diabetics, Cardiovasculars, Anti-cancers, Gastro-intestinal medicines, etc. For impeccable quality assurance, each batch of drug supply to PMBJP Kendras is tested at National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratories empanelled by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), the implementing agency of PMBJP. As on 05.04.2017, 1110 PMBJP Kendras are functional in the country. However, to ensure coverage across the entire country, various steps have been taken by the Government such as:

(i) The scheme guidelines have been amended to enable opening of PMBJP Kendras in various Government owned buildings like Municipalities/Panchayati Raj Institutions/Post Offices, etc. and incentivizing of weaker sections to participate in the scheme.

(ii) Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) have been signed with various State Government/Organisations/NGOs to promote opening of PMBJP Kendras across the country.

(iii) BPPI has released advertisements in various newspapers in the country during December 2016 inviting applications from private individuals. The response has been overwhelmingly encouraging and as on 05.04.2017, 28,301 applications have been received out of which in-principle approval has been given to 24,049 applications.

(b) In order to spread awareness about the use of generic drugs in the country, BPPI has initiated publicity campaigns around PMBJP Kendras through hoardings, bulk SMS, mobile exhibitions, distribution of pamphlets, etc. for spreading awareness about the scheme and its objective of providing affordable and quality generic medicines. Also, a 15 days Radio/FM campaign was also launched in various States of the country.

(c) & (d) Public Health being a State subject, the primary responsibility of supply of medicines including lifesaving medicines free of cost to the patients in public/Government Healthcare Centres primarily lies with the State/UT Governments. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), support is provided to the States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including for provision of free essential drugs to those who access public health facilities, based on the requirement posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans.

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